

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 2820 (B) SANTIAGO 2936

1. THE WEEK'S JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO THE TOWNLEY
EXPULSION SEIZED SOME HEADLINES BUT DID NOT SHED MUCH LIGHT.
THE SUPREME COURT APRIL 18 IN A 9-3 DECISION TURNED DOWN A
TOWNLEY CALL (THROUGH LAWYER FERNANDO RIVERA) FOR A SPECIAL
INVESTIGATING JUDGE TO LOOK INTO THE EXPULSION. THE THIRD
CRIMINAL COURT CONTINUED TO REVIEW THE EXPULSION ACTION, CALLING
IN POLICE ("INVESTIGACIONES") OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY. IN ADDITION,
TOWNLEY'S OTHER LAWYER, MANUEL ACUNA, LODGED A COMPLAINT IN
THAT COURT AGAINST FBI AGENTS CORNICK AND SCHERER AND "IN-
VESTIGACIONES" OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "ARBITRARY DETENTION
AND DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE PERPETRATED AGAINST MICHAEL TOWNLEY".
ACUNA REQUESTED THE COURT TO SEEK ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
WHAT WAS THE MISSION OF CORNICK AND SCHERER IN CHILE? WHO
DO THEY WORK FOR? DID THEY REQUEST TOWNLEY'S DEPARTURE AND DID
THEY ORGANIZE IT? WHO GAVE THEIR ORDERS IN THE TOWNLEY CASE?
WHO FINANCED THE OPERATION AND WAS THERE PRESSURE EXERTED
AGAINST CHILEAN CITIZENS? AS OF APRIL 21 NO WORD WAS AVAILABLE
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ON WHEN FINDINGS MAY BE KNOWN OR A JUDGMENT RENDERED.

2. MEDIA EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE LETELIER CASE, DROPPING SHARPLY,
WAS LIMITED TO A "TERCERA" EDITORIAL APRIL 19. IN IT, THE DAILY

COMPLAINS OF THE SNAIL-PACED INQUIRIES INTO THE POSSIBLE MISHANDLING
BY "INVESTIGACIONES" OF THE EXPULSION, AND RECALLS THAT PRESIDENT

PINOCHE PUBLICLY ASSIGNED THIS MATTER TOP PRIORITY WHEN HE SWORE IN THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER LAST WEEK. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE DELAY ENCOURAGES DOUBTS AND RUMORS, WHICH DAMAGE THE GOC ABROAD.

3. ON A SPARE ASPECT OF THE LETELIER CASE, THE GOC'S BROAD AMNESTY (REF B) OF APRIL 18 SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ROMERAL/WILLIAMS PASSPORT FRAUD INVESTIGATION NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY AN AD HOC MILITARY PROSECUTOR PROCURATOR (FISCAL).
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